

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the non-final Office Action dated February 9, 2007, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Presently, claims 1-11 are pending in the application. With this response, claims 1 and 2-10 have been amended, claims 12-17 have been added, and claim 11 has been canceled. No new matter has been introduced by this Response; thus, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 4, 7-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended claims 4 and 7-9 to overcome the §112 rejections. Additionally, claim 11 has been canceled rendering the rejection to that claim moot.

Also, in the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hazama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,971,589, hereafter “Hazama”); and claim 3, 7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hazama. The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6-7 and 9-10 to clarify the scope of the claims, and also to further distinguish over the cited reference. As amended, the independent claims are directed to apparatuses and methods for attaching data items to a physical environment. In pertinent part, a plurality of data items are captured and stored such that the *data items are attached to the surrounding contexts in a particular environment in a corresponding manner; and at least one stored data item is retrieved based on surrounding contexts currently being sensed in the particular environment.* (see Applicant’s Application, page 11-12). These features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Hazama.

Hazama discloses a system for managing and distributing design and manufacturing information related to a particular part. The system in Hazama utilizes an image editing window feature to facilitate the selection of stored images, which can be displayed on different screens. The images are captured by a digital or video camera, and can include different images of the part being designed or manufactured. For example, the images can be used to capture the different steps in a bending operation of the part. The images (and audio data) can be stored and later retrieved for display. (see Hazama, col. 75, lines 26-56).

In Hazama, although the image data can be stored and retrieved, the retrieval of the images (or the audio data for that matter) is not based on currently sensed surrounding content. Instead, the system in Hazama is more conventional. An operator is presented with menu options for the replaying of a stored audio or video information. (see Hazama, col. 74, lines 24-48). The replay, therefore, has nothing to do with currently sensed context information. To the contrary, the above independent claims are directed to improvements in augmented reality (AR). For example, a user wearing a computer and sensing means can sense context within the surrounding environment. The data from the sensing mean is then used for retrieving information previously stored. The retrieved information relates to the real world environment currently being observed and sensed by the user. (see Applicant's Application, page 11-12).

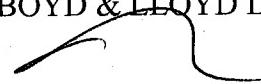
For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 6-7 and 9-10 (as amended) are distinguished over the cited reference. Dependent claims 2-8 and 12-16 are also distinguished from the cited reference based at least on their dependency from independent claims 1 and 6.

In light of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance; thus, a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Director is authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees associated with the submission of this Amendment, including any time extension fees. Please reference docket number 112857-434.

Respectfully submitted,

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